

Making A Difference Training & Response Solutions

Seminar and Course Offerings



FOREST F. REEDER

Informational Biography



Forest Reeder began his fire service career in 1978. He retired as Fire Chief of the Tinley Park (IL) Fire Department in 2021. In that role he led over 100 firefighters in a community of over 58,000 residents and achieved an ISO Class 1 rating.

He has worked and lectured extensively in the areas of training & instruction, firefighter safety and officer development and earned his Master of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration. He is the co-author of *Fire Service Instructor Principles and Practices* now in its 3rd edition. He was inducted into the Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2020 and awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award in 2021. In 2008, he received the ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year, considered to be the highest recognition for fire service instructors in the nation.

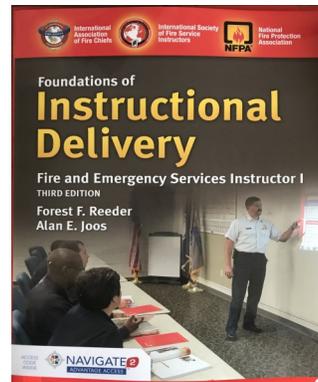
He has instructed at FDIC for over 20 years and trains both locally and nationally on fire service training, safety and officer development related topics having lectured in 28 states, Canada and Germany. He is the co-author of *Fire Service Instructor Principles and Practices 3rd edition* published by Jones and Bartlett Learning. Forest holds many Illinois fire service certifications including Fire Officer 3, Training Program Manager, and Fire Department Safety Officer.

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COMPANY LEVEL SAFETY AND SURVIVAL

Learn the responsibilities of the officer and crew members to identify and predict hazards associated with the most common fireground operations such as fire attack and search. Understand what you should watch out for during high risk areas of fire attack and suppression.

IMPROVING FIREGROUND COMMUNICATIONS

Frequently cited in critiques and reviews of incidents is poor communications. This class is designed to improve your ability to effectively communicate during incidents using standard terminology and specific concise messages. Multiple scenario driven exercises and short acronym based memory triggers will help you develop your skills.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & FIRE ATTACK

Officers make critical decisions during all aspects of a fireground operation, none more important than the proper and safe assessment of the type of building that the fire is in. Reading the building construction allows the officer to make the safe fire attack decisions needed to manage the incident. Case studies and building type fire attack strategies will be used to improve safety.

TACTICAL DECISION MAKING

Making tactical decisions is based on a sound process of critical thinking and matching standard conditions with standard actions during size-up and then continually during the incident. Officers must be able to rapidly assess fireground conditions to make tactical decisions that support the overall incident strategy. This class will give the officer tabletop and simulator experience in making the right tactical decisions for a safe and effective fireground.

SUBURBAN HIGH RISE OPERATIONS (Standpipe Ops)

Working in a suburban high-rise (a standpiped building +/- 10 stories) is a low frequency event for most departments. This class will look at all of the job performance requirements necessary for crews to size-up, supply water to a standpipe, advance hose, and make safe and effective fire attack from a standpipe connection. A case driven approach using low-rise hotels and apartment buildings will help understand the complex nature of these operations.

LEADERSHIP AT THE COMPANY LEVEL

Leadership at the company level creates a culture of excellence and is the formation for high level performance. Using a case based approach of common leadership challenges that an officer will face, the student will learn the importance of problem solving, coaching, and communicating expectations at the company level.

INTRODUCTION TO INCIDENT COMMAND

Newly assigned incident commanders will benefit from this class as will company officers who must assume the role of the initial I/C. The formation of an initial incident action plan and hazard zone management tied together with accountability will be demonstrated in a series of scenario based exercises.

SIZE-UP SKILLS WORKSHOP

This class covers methods of conducting incident scene size-up. A simple communications model will be used to help officers effectively communicate incident scene factors and begin developing an incident action plan. Simulations will allow the student to practice size-up and initial radio reporting in a variety of incident types.

FIRST-IN COMPANY OFFICER

Decision making for the first-in company officer is critical to the success of an operation. This course will focus on size-up, building profiling, tactical decision making and emphasize firefighter safety and survival in a variety of challenging situations. Students will learn how to develop an incident action plan and assign the first arriving companies prior to the IC arrival.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDERS' INHERITENCE, ASSUMING COMMAND AT ESTABLISHED INCIDENTS

Assuming command at an incident in progress is a complex and critical function at a fire scene. Seldom does a person who will assume and remain in command for the duration of the incident arrive before suppression companies. This class will present some decision making tools that will assist the I/C in determining if an initial action plan needs to be abandoned or reinforced. This is a safety and survival based class that keys on quick decision making guides that can fit any size or type of departments incident command system.

INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER WORKSHOP

Basic skills and quick decision making guides are highlighted and used in this interactive and case base driven workshop. Improve your skills or learn the key responsibilities of the ISO going beyond the "bunker cop" approach to incident safety. Learn to identify building hazards, fire behavior caution and warning signs, and to identify crew member mistakes before they can hurt or kill firefighters.

MAKING TRAINING COUNT / MAKING TRAINING GREAT AGAIN

Is it time to change your training program into a survival program? Are your members tired of the same old drill or presentation? This class is designed to give students resources and planning tools to help them upgrade their training programs to make training count. Every training minute matters and building a survival focused training program with quick, short but intense training drills will help meet this challenge.

TRAINING OFFICERS: TODAY'S SURVIVAL OFFICER

Designing a training program and delivering impactful training requires an understanding of the true mission and job description of the training officer. You are the department's survival officer and you must be ready to hit the ground running. Existing and new training officers (and instructors alike) will be challenged to develop a training needs assessment based on their actual fire ground experiences and observations to determine what topics and skills are needed. New training techniques, mandates and training division leadership will be covered in this interactive and case based workshop. Come ready to tune-up or jump start your program and gain valuable resources that will allow you to get to work on making a difference and will surely allow you to work smarter and more efficiently in managing your program. All types of departments will benefit from this course.

MIDDLE-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP / ACTING OFFICER BOOTCAMP

It is often said that the company officer is the connecting link between administration and the firefighter. This class covers problem solving, delegation, leadership, and strategies aimed at making you the best officer that you can be. Case studies are used to allow officers to utilize their management and leadership skills. Students are challenged to handle dozens of realistic scenarios using basic and common sense management approaches to problem solving and motivation.

THE TRAINING OFFICERS CHALLENGE; WHAT NEEDS TO BE IN OUR TRAINING PROGRAM

Every training officer should attend this workshop to understand the basic construction of a fire service training program. Compliance issues, minimum company standards, evaluation methods and essential skills training are some of the areas covered in this program that will help you shape a well-rounded and effective training program. Resources available to complete these tasks will be shared and allow for great information exchange between participants.

FIREGROUND UPDATE

A sampling of the research provided by UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute and how it can be applied to decision making and operating procedures in your Department. Building construction, fire behavior, fire streams and specific tactics are discussed to make your decision making contemporary with today's fireground.

FIREGROUND COMPANY OPERATIONS

This class covers the functions of the engine, truck and rescue company in fireground operations. Company based size-up and specific functions of each type of company with their tactical objectives are covered in tactical scenarios and group problem solving exercises. Learn how new research in the order of operations can influence your safety and success on the fireground.

ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICES IN FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Today's fire service instructor faces new challenges and responsibilities every day. This hands-on workshop will challenge you to improve your skills as an instructor and to develop strategies to help your firefighters succeed on the fire service battleground; the emergency incident scene. Topics covered include identifying training needs at emergency incidents, current issues facing instructors and creating best practices for instructors and training officers on common instructional and management tasks.

THE TRAINING CHALLENGE; WHAT YOU MUST STOP, START AND CONTINUE DOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Fire and emergency service instructors and training officers are charged with a tremendous responsibility to develop and deliver effective training with limited resources and limited time. This 3-part presentation will charge the participants with the responsibility to look at their programs as Firefighter Survival Programs. Your new job title will become the Fire Department Survival Officer and you will be challenged to identify training activities and programs that you must Start, Stop and Continue to make a difference in your firefighters survival and ability to deliver great service to your community.

IT'S YOUR TRAINING PROGRAM; WHAT EVERY CHIEF MUST KNOW

As a Chief Officer, you may supervise or be responsible for the training process or the overall program for your Department. During this session, you'll gain an understanding for the required training programs, skill development and retention programs along with the programs necessary to promote and prepare for the future. Understand what OSHA, ISO, NFPA and many others require or recommend in your training program and the best practices in each area.

THE 5 MOST DANGEROUS PLACES

Firefighters can be killed or injured in many places. This class examines the 5 most dangerous places for a firefighter during an emergency and identifies "watch-outs" for them through an interactive workshop including case-study and student centered applications. Company officers, incident commanders and all fire service personnel will benefit from this survival focused training.

THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE; THE PUMP OPERATOR AS A SAFETY OFFICER

The pump operator on the first arriving company sits in a unique position to support the overall safety and incident management plan for an incident. This isn't a class on fireground hydraulics, it's a class on incident scene safety and how the pump operator can monitor and compare conditions, the effect on tactics and the necessary resources needed to safely operate. Incident Safety Officers can benefit greatly from the valuable information that this pump operator can provide.

THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES; ASSESSING THE INITIAL ATTACK

Ask any company officer or crewmember about the most important time on the fireground and they will say without exception that the first five minutes of an incident are the most important. Our primary goals as firefighters are governed by a sense of purpose to meet very specific tactical objectives. In the first five minutes as the first-due company officer or incident commander you must be able to identify your strategic goals and your tactical objectives. We are going to discuss what needs to be done as engine and truck company assignments in the first five minutes.

INSTRUCTOR AND TRAINING OFFICER ASSESSMENT CENTER (ISFSI)

Instructor skills and responsibilities of the training officer are put to the test in this workshop designed to help the participant learn where they can improve their ability to do their jobs. Case based scenarios and skill sessions will allow for practice application in realistic problems and program development exercises.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF TRAINING

A comprehensive review of the skills necessary to develop and deliver effective training. New teaching techniques with loads of student interactions will improve your ability to make a difference in company level training and beyond. NFPA 1041 will be referenced and this course makes a great continuing education resource.